

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-42 (cancelled).

43 (new). A gaming apparatus comprising:

a value input device;

a display element;

at least one sound card having at least two audio channels;

at least one multi-channel mixer circuit coupled to the at least two audio channels of the at least one sound card;

at least one audio output element coupled to the at least one multi-channel mixer circuit; and

a central processing unit coupled to the display element, the value input device, the at least one sound card, and the at least one multi-channel mixer circuit,

the central processing unit receiving a wager via the value input device;

the central processing unit causing the display element to display graphics associated with a game;

the central processing unit causing the sound card to provide audio signals associated with the game on at least one of the at least two audio channels, the sound card providing audio signals unassociated with the game on another of the at least two audio channels; and

the central processing unit causing the multi-channel mixer circuit to mix the audio signals provided on the at least one of at least two audio channels and the another of the at least two audio channels.

44 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 43 wherein the game comprises at least one of slots, blackjack, poker, Keno, and bingo.

45 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 43 wherein the at least one audio output element comprises at least one of speakers, an audio port, and a transmitter.

46 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 43 further comprising an audio headset operably coupled to the at least one audio output element.

47 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 43 wherein the at least one audio output element comprises a volume adjustment control.

48 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 43 wherein the audio signals on the another of the at least two audio channels represent at least one of game play instructions, music, news, general information, promotional information, and confidential information.

49 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 43 wherein the at least one multi-channel mixer circuit facilitates selection of at least one of the at least two audio channels.

50 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 49 wherein the at least one multi-channel mixer circuit facilitates transmission of the selection of at least one of the at least two audio channels to the audio output element.

51 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 43 wherein the central processing unit determines a payout associated with an outcome of the game.

52 (new). A method comprising:

- receiving a wager;
- displaying an image associated with a game;
- providing audio signals associated with the game;
- providing audio signals unassociated with the game;
- mixing at least two audio signals to define a mixed signal with a multi-channel mixer circuit;
- transmitting the mixed signal to at least one audio output element; and
- determining a payout associated with an outcome of the game.

53 (new). The method of claim 51 wherein the game comprises at least one of slots, blackjack, poker, Keno, and bingo.

54 (new). The method of claim 51 wherein the at least one audio output element comprises at least one of speakers, an audio port, and a transmitter.

55 (new). The method of claim 51 further comprising an audio headset operably coupled to the at least one audio output element.

56 (new). The method of claim 51 wherein the at least one audio output element comprises a volume adjustment control.

57 (new). The method of claim 51 wherein the audio signals unassociated with the game represent at least one of game play instructions, music, news, general information, promotional information, and confidential information.